



K6UUW, SK

—By Robert KA5WSS

Of course the big news over the last month has been the passing of longtime member Jim Hill (K6UUW). He was a fixture of VOMARC before my arrival into Sonoma and was always actively supporting the club, and Amateur Radio as a whole, in its efforts to gain new members and engage those already in the ranks. You may recall his "Top of the Hill" columns in this newsletter in the past.

A good number of VOMARC members were in attendance at Jim's burial ceremony on July 29th. As his son mentioned in the eulogy Jim was a natural born teacher and always seemed to gravitate to helping others learn and expand their knowledge and skills. I recall roaming the halls of the last Pacificon 2019 and it was fairly easy to find Jim. He was usually at the tables where experienced Hams were teaching newcomers how to solder, use a CW keyer or anything else that might be of interest. Many of us had an elmer at some point when joining the hobby. Jim was an elmer to many and will be sorely missed.

When the club is finally able to resume its normal meetings at the Sonoma Police station it's nice to know that Jim will always be close

by. He lies in rest at Sonoma's Veterans Cemetery, just across the street.

The weekend of August 8-9 saw the first edition of the first QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo. By all accounts it was a success. One of the things I missed was being able to run into people I know to see what they were looking for and what they had attended, like I did with Jim and others at Pacificon. There was a QSO Lounge chat room, but finding someone I know in there was like finding a needle in a haystack. It would have been cool to have a chat room with other local Hams to see what talks they were watching and commenting on how things were going.

There is a way to make that happen! I'd like to try out a mail reflector that includes a chat capability for the club to see if that might increase member contact. Please navigate to the [VOMARC Groups.io page](https://www.vomarcgroups.io) and sign up. There are separate mail reflectors for announcements (which club officers would have access to to send periodic announcements) and chat (where all members can post and share their thoughts). Users can set their preferences on how often they'd like to get emails delivered, if at all. More info on this will be provided at the next meeting. Let's give this a try and see how it goes.

<http://www.ka5wss.com/>

NEXT MEETING

Wed, August 19, 2020, 7:30pm
Zoom meeting room info will be emailed
later.

Minutes, July 15 Meeting

Meeting very successfully held on ZOOM by
KA5WSS

KA5WSS (Robert), KD6FIL (Dave), KE6HID
(Andrew), W8EWL (John), KM6ZUC (Bruce),
N6TVN (Carl), KA2QQO (Declan), WD6BOR
(Darrel), W5LTP (Sam), N7PIB (Sanford), NJ6E
(Stan), W1EJ (Ed), WB6TMH (Mike)

Guest: Ralph Simpson

Meeting called to order at 19:30 by president
and zoom wizard KA5WSS

MINUTES

Minutes from the June meeting were approved

TREASURER

Currently have \$4,384 in the bank. Paid the
insurance. VOMARC set it up to pay dues online.
Still more equipment to sell.

SECRETARY

No Updates. The VOMARC Breakfast on the Air is
going well.

Vice President

Absent

Training

School closed

PRESIDENT

Books that were originally purchased for the
County Library are available for loan.

OLD BUSINESS

Field Day Results were in the newsletter.

Donated equipment that is for sale, is posted to the
VOMARC Web Page.

NEW BUSINESS

Thank you Kevin and Elizabeth, for the great
photos from your radio adventure to the
Sonoma Coast.

CQ VHF Contest is July 18 and 19. Meet at 5 PM,
July 18 on 146.540 simplex FM for club contacts.

Next month's meeting presentation will be
California QSO Party by Fred, N6YEU

There is a new repeater outside Hopland that is
linked to a series of repeaters in Mendocino and
Lake County. The repeater is 145.470, - offset
with a PL of 103.5.

<http://w6mmm.club/optaids.html> The website
has a great map showing all the repeaters in the
area. (Thank you Andrew, KE6HID, for the
information)

The Sonoma County DMR net is still going at 1830 on
Thursdays on talk group 31707.

Mystery Box: Jack, K6ZMF has the box and the
Mystery Box program is on hold for a while
PROGRAM

Ralph Simpson did an amazing presentation on
the Enigma Encryption Machine.

The slide presentation is available at:

<https://cipherhistory.com/presentations.html>

Check out Ralph's website at:

<https://cipherhistory.com/index.html>

Ralph also has a museum in San Jose.

Meeting adjourned at 2030.

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we learned of Jim Hill's passing early Monday morning.

We were all so lucky to have had time with Jim in VOMARC activities. He was a leader, a friend, a teacher, a wonderful father and husband.

I wish I had better photographs, but I hope the many reminders that surround you of how he has enriched our lives will bring comfort to you, and memories of this special man.

It was truly a privilege to know him. I will miss his friendship, (his countless radio hitches), and his resilient presence.

If you would like to offer condolences to the Hill family, please send a card to Judy Hill:

1496 Nut Tree Lane, Sonoma, CA 95476

I'd also like to send a group card from our VOMARC membership. If you would like to participate in this, please forward your message to me via email. I will compile all our messages into a card and send it to Judy from our club.

Sincerely,

Dave, KD6FIL



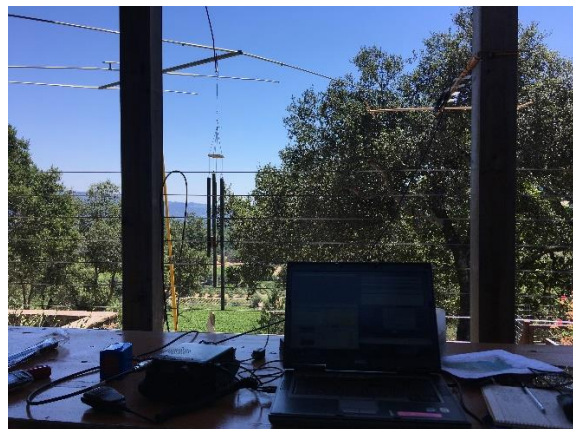
Who's Doing What

Stan (NJ6E) is working with a Chinese copy of the popular [Hack RF board](#).

Sanford (N7PIB) has been working [Parks On The Air](#), particularly in the western part of the US.

Robert (KA5WSS) received the FT4 sticker for his [Worked All States](#) digital award.

Dave (KD6FIL) and Robert (KA5WSS) participated in the CQ WW VHF Contest in July. Dave made 15 contacts with a score of 189 points in the QRP category. The photo below shows the 6M and 2M antennas he used. Both Dave and Robert noted that conditions were poor on 6M until after the contest was over!



The photo below (next page) shows John's (W8EWL) 2M Moxon pointed SSW. He was hoping the beam and elevation (1,250 feet) would suffice to get into the 146.205 repeater for the breakfast nets. Though he can hit the repeater from his home in Santa Rosa for some reason he still cannot hear it. We need to figure this one out! Any ideas?



—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

PAPA System

The [PAPA System](#) has placed 19 DMR repeaters on the air in Southern California and networked them with other California DMR repeaters, as well as those around the world. PAPA DMR repeaters are networked via the [BrandMeister DMR network](#).

BrandMeister allows the user to decide how a repeater is connected to the network. Got a question? Something not working as it should? Click on the link to get to the [PAPA Help Desk](#) and let us know. For the most current DMR info, check into the DMR Roundtable, 8pm Pacific time Mondays on the California talkgroup, BrandMeister TG 3106.

—Submitted by Andrew KE6HID

Misc

- Dave (KD6FIL) has a tube tester for anyone who needs access to one.
- Sonoma is not offering any free days at the Veterans Building for the fiscal year that runs through summer 2021. That means no Hamfest at our usual location next year either. We're looking for alternate sites and if you have ideas please let us know.

- Sonoma County Radio Amateurs is hosting a CW class. They meet on Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00 PM, location to be determined. There is no charge for the class but students may be required to purchase some items, such as code keys. For more information email John Breckenridge (WB6FRZ) at wb6frz@arrl.net.
- SCRA is also hosting [drive up exam sessions](#) given the current state of the COVID-19 pandemic. Future sessions will be held on Sept. 26th and Nov. 14th (both Saturdays). Advance registration is required. Contact Brian Torr (N6IIY) at n6iyy@arrl.net.
- An article on the IEEE Spectrum website entitled [The Uncertain Future of Ham Radio](#) paints an uncertain future for Amateur Radio. Lots of emphasis on getting young people interested and the trend toward more digital modes.

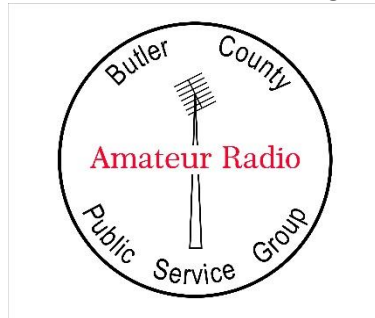
—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Greetings to the VOMARC Membership, from a Little Club with Big Ideas in Western Pennsylvania!

—By Julian J. Savage, KA3RNF,
President, Butler County Amateur Radio Public
Service Group, Inc

On behalf of the Butler County Amateur Radio Public Service Group, Inc., KA3RNF sends sincere greetings to the VOMARC membership! The name here is Julian and I am the current President of our club.

We are one of two clubs in Butler County and honestly, the youngest and most likely, smaller of the two groups but we have big ideas for amateur communication across the county! Our group began about 45 years ago, when a couple amateurs, having a sincere interest in expanding local amateur radio involvement with Emergency Management split off from the only club in the county at that time. To make a long story short, this small group had tried on numerous occasions to expand public service activities within the existing organization but believe it or



not, were resisted by a majority of the membership at every turn. At that point, this little group of operators began working with numerous agencies assisting with emergency operations across the

county and the Public Service Group was born.

Utilizing only one UHF repeater provided by the county, those relief agencies soon realized the importance of amateur radio in emergency communications and we became a credible partner in providing emergency services to our county. Talking with my dear friend, KJ6ZMV over the last few years, we have briefly discussed VOMARC activities, operational readiness and was introduced to your website. I even gleaned some ideas from your website for establishing ours. Honestly, here in Pennsylvania, our activities center on public service events and Section Emergency Training scenarios. California, as beautiful as it is, appears to be a target rich environment for disaster. Earthquakes, mudslides, wild fires, potential tsunamis, and now civil unrest, I am certain, keep your Emergency Management folks up at

night and local involved amateurs quite busy. I cannot imagine why everyone in California does not have a basic amateur radio license, as an alternate form of personal communication and real time information. I thank the Lord our disasters and emergency operations seldom come close to what you folks deal with out there.



Julian Savage

OK, back to us, today our group owns five repeaters in the county, 4 hosted by Butler County Emergency Management and the fifth one hosted by a local township. Our long range goal is to link all of our sites into the AllStar network. We also have a radio room exclusively utilized by amateur radio in the new Butler County Emergency Operations Center. The room was funded through an amateur radio grant, is equipped with multiple radios covering 70CM down through 2M, including 2HF transceivers. If it sounds like I am bragging, I am.

Over the years we have developed and exceptional working relationship with our Emergency Management Staff and it shows how even a small group of dedicated people can make a huge impact down the road. I have learned a couple, of what I believe to be critical things over the years. First, communication is key to any club's overall success. My people hear from me by email all the time, whether they are directly involved with an issue or not. The view from my chair, is club transparency, there is very little that goes on in a club that does not have an



Radio Room Ops

effect on everyone, therefore, by default, most everyone in the organization needs to be abreast of just what is going on between monthly meetings. In doing so, everyone stays connected and feels a part of the action, and sometimes, just sometimes, even inspires them to take that first step into getting involved! The other thing I have learned is that an organizations individual members are by far, the club's greatest asset! Most every member brings something to the table but collectively with common goals and focused leadership, teamwork is a powerful force! My favorite saying is "one person does not a club make" and my people have heard just that, from me, on more than one occasion. OK, so why am talking to you today?

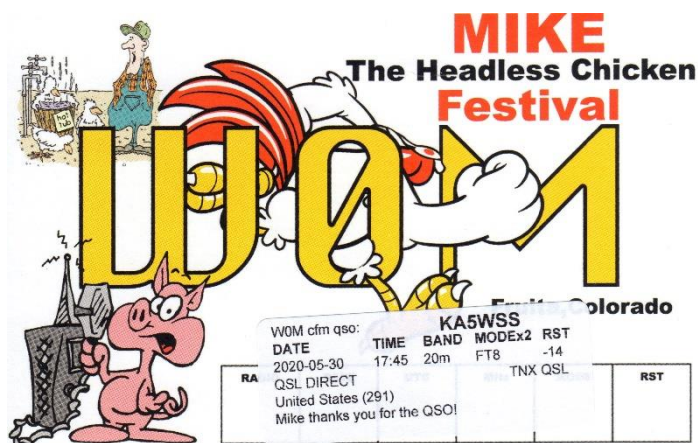
Well, 2020 has been a banner year for us. We have picked up about 4 or 5 new members, moved 3 of our repeaters to new towers and better locations without incident, rejoined the AllStar WAN, designated a Special Service Club by the ARRL and finally after many years, have built a club website, which brings me to the main point of my writing all of you today. I am inviting all of you to take a look at our website (<http://k3psg.com>) and please, as your site was somewhat inspirational to me, let me know what you think. Positive comments and suggestions for improvement are more than welcome. We are new to this informational media and are always looking for ways to improve! Additionally, at the bottom left corner of the video page we have a U-Tube Link (Red Square w/Arrow), to a channel that we have established. Our reasoning behind developing the channel, is at some point in the future, we would like to create a number of How To/DIY amateur related videos and additionally, create a basic licensing video. **However, when you do visit, please consider subscribing to our U-Tube channel! To date, we are hovering right around 80 subscriptions. If we do manage to get to the 100 mark, we will get significant enhancements to our channel.** Now, at at the risk of dating myself, I will say, "That's All Folks!"

A special Thank-you goes out to Wendy for her help and encouragement in getting this DX ball rolling, to Robert for granting me space in your newsletter and to the entire VOMARC membership for taking the time to read and possibly respond to my request!

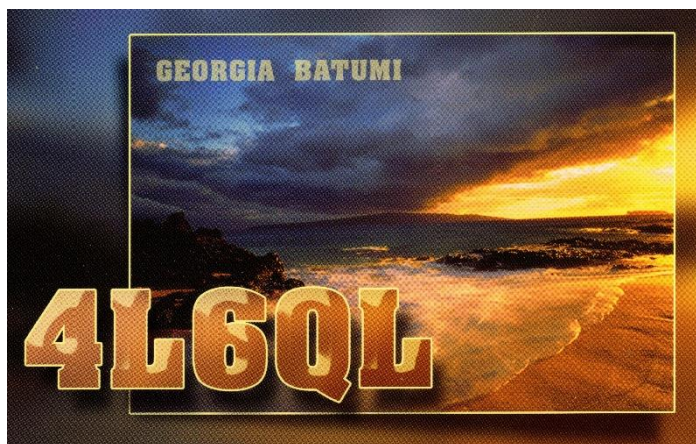


Field Day 2017

From The QSL Inbox



Not all interesting QSL cards are rare DX. This special event station operated during a festival to honor the local legend [Mike, The Headless Chicken](#).



4L6QL in the Caucasus Mountain country of Georgia worked on FT8.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 24 EDITION 6

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF

Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Robert Barron KA5WSS – President

VACANT – Vice President

Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL – Secretary

VACANT – Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Moe Llanes, KI6JNU – ACS Unit Leader

Sanford Smith, N7PIB – VE Liaison

Jim Hill K6UUW – Elmer Coordinator

Darrel Jones, WD6BOR – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Editor

Robert Barron, KA5WSS – Webmeister

“Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC.”—S. Marler

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month at the City of Sonoma Police Department EOC 175 1st St West. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

WEB PAGE: <http://www.vomarc.org/>

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is off the air until further notice.

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Black Bear Restaurant, 201 W Napa St, #34 (Marketplace Shopping Center), Sonoma. The fun starts at 08:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

—OR—

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

C/O Sonoma Police Department

175 First Street West

Sonoma, CA 95476

**2020 ACS
Net Control Assignments**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	MOE	KI6JNU
FEBRUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
MARCH	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
APRIL	JIM	K6UUW
MAY	DICK	KF6FZM
JUNE	MOE	KI6JNU
JULY		
AUGUST	BILL	KJ6EIG
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	FK6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

**2020 VOMARC
Net Control Assignments**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY	ED	W1EJ
JUNE	FRANK	KG6N
JULY	MOE	KI6JNU
AUGUST	CARL	N6TVN
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE MARCH 18, 2020, 7:30PM

AT THE CITY OF SONOMA EOC IN THE SONOMA POLICE DEPARTMENT, 175 1ST St West, Sonoma 95476

SEE YOU THERE.

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP 2020

Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member at same address.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC Membership: Complimentary with Class—Date: _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen:

Dues may be mailed to VOMARC in care of the Sonoma Police Department, 175 1st St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**.